

Remarks:

1. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iochi et al. (5,739,421).
 - a. Re claim 1, the Examiner has interpreted the pressure sensor (18) of Iochi et al. as being “supported on the valve housing” because there exists a direct and physical connection between the valve housing (15) and the pressure sensor (18)”.

However, applicants contend that there is nothing in the cited prior art reference that teaches or suggests that the sensor is supported on the valve housing. Iochi clearly shows them as two separate structures that are each connected to a fluid transfer conduit. The separate structures are not in direct physical contact with each other in the cited reference and it would therefore have not been obvious to combine them, nor should they be read that way. (See MPEP 2144.04, V., B.).

Applicants contend that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.
 - b. Re claims 2-5, as these claims depend from claim 1, for at least the reasons cited above, they are in condition for allowance.
 - c. Re claim 8, applicants have amended claim 8 to clearly describe and point out applicant’s invention. As stated above in point 1(a), Iochi does not teach or disclose having the leak sensing means supported on the selectively establishing means. Therefore, applicants contend that claim 8 is now in condition for allowance.

- d. Re claim 9, as this claim depends from claim 8, for at least the reasons cited above, it is in condition for allowance.
 - e. Re claim 16, as stated above in point 1(a), Iochi does not teach or disclose having the pressure sensor supported by the valve housing.
 - f. Re claim 17, as this claim depends from claim 16, for at least the reasons cited above, it is in condition for allowance
2. Claims 6, 7, 10-15, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iochi et al. (5,739,421).
- a. All of these claims are dependent on one of dependent claims 1, 8, and 16. Applicants contend that there is nothing in the cited prior art reference that teaches or suggests that the sensor is supported by the valve housing or mounted on the valve housing. Iochi clearly shows them as two separate structures that are each connected to a fluid transfer conduit. The separate structures are not in direct physical contact with each other in the cited reference and it would therefore have not been obvious to combine them, nor should they be read that way. (See MPEP 2144.04, V., B.). Consequently, applicants contend that all of these claims are in condition for allowance.

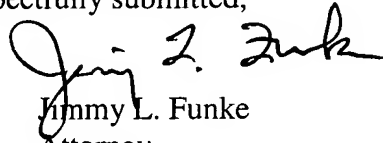
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's detailed consideration of the application and look forward to a timely Notice of Allowance.

Appl. No. 10/649,453
Amdt. Dated December 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 13, 2004

Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit
Account No. 50-0831 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Jimmy L. Funke
Attorney

Telephone (248) 813-1214
Reg. No. 34166

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